



April 26, 2016

Instructional Quality Commission & the California State Board of Education
1430 N. St., Suite 5111
Sacramento, CA 94814
Via Email: iqc@cde.ca.gov; sbe@cde.ca.gov

Re: Bataan Legacy Historical Society's Recommendations on History/Social Sciences Curriculum Framework (Grade 11, Chapter 16)

Dear Members of the Instructional Quality Commission and the California State Board of Education:

On behalf of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society, I wish to thank the members and staff of the Instructional Quality Commission for their continued help, patience and assistance to implement AB199 to include the role of the Filipinos during World War II in the Philippines in the history curriculum framework. It has been a long and complicated process but in the end I know that it will be worth all the effort because our California students deserve only the best.

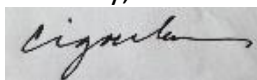
I am sending the IQC our recommendations that have yet to be accepted. While we are very appreciative of some of our recommendations that the IQC has already included, we are still asking for these additional points because there still remain some factual errors in the current text. These are the same points that we recommended earlier but that the CHSSP has rejected. As I mentioned to you, groups from other states are already looking at this history curriculum framework as they are interested in replicating this. Therefore, we must ensure that it will be historically accurate and does not contain any factual errors. It must also reflect the perspective of those who made the sacrifices in the Philippines during WWII. Many of our reference materials have been used in the Infantry School in Fort Benning, Naval War College and other military schools.

Our recommendations have been supported by our Educational Advisory Group which includes members of academia and the military (3 retired U.S. generals), the Philippine Government, various city and state officials, teachers' groups and other organizations. You will be receiving more letters of support for our recommendations from various groups including the military.

It has taken over seventy-one years to include this in the history curriculum framework for high school in the United States. Most of those who fought during WWII in the Philippines have passed on and their legacy grows dimmer with each passing day.

I am urging the Instructional Quality Commission and the State Board of Education to approve the recommendations made by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society on the Grade 11, Chapter 16 of the history curriculum framework. Through their help and support, I am confident that California can lead the rest of the nation in giving light and life to the legacy of our WWII veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gaerlan', on a light-colored background.

Cecilia I. Gaerlan
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Bataan Legacy Historical Society Educational Advisory Group

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HSSC SMC Approved Text(Summary of Actions 24March12016)	BLHS Comments on HSSC SMC Approved Text	Bataan Legacy Recommended Text
<p>The US army, which included American and Filipino troops, led by General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.</p> <p>Although American and Filipino troops lacked ammunition and food, and thousands were sick from malaria and dengue fever, they managed to defend Bataan for 99 days.</p> <p>MacArthur fled to Australia during this period, vowing, "I shall return."</p> <p>On April 9, 1942 General Edward P. King, Jr., US commander of all ground troops in Bataan, surrendered his 76,000 sick and</p>	<p>This version overlooks the fact that majority of the troops were Filipinos. AB199, the legislative mandate for this curriculum revision is about the role of the Filipinos during WWII.</p> <p>The significance of the Battle of Bataan must be stated as it delayed the 52-day timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army, despite massive disease and starvation.</p> <p>"I shall return" does not add value to the framework and continues to perpetuate the MacArthur myth. He did not flee but was ordered to leave for Australia.</p>	<p>The U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) comprised of American and Filipino troops who manned seven-eighths of the main line of resistance and led by General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.</p> <p>Despite suffering from massive disease and starvation and fighting without any air support, the USAFFE troops performed a delaying action that disrupted the 52-day timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army by defending Bataan for 99 days.</p> <p>On March 12, 1942, General MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia.</p> <p>On April 9, 1942, General Edward P. King, Jr., Commanding General of Luzon Force, surrendered 63,000</p>

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<p>starving troops (American and Filipino) to the Japanese, one of the most grievous defeats in American military history. The captured soldiers were then forced to march more than 60 miles north in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Conditions during the march were brutal. POWs who couldn't keep up due to exhaustion or a lack of food or water, they were beaten, bayoneted, shot, or in some cases, beheaded by Japanese soldiers; approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died along the way. If the POWs survived the grueling trek, they were packed into pre-war boxcars for transport to prison camps. Thousands of soldiers died in the journey and in the camps from sickness and starvation.</p> <p>Over the next three years, the US employed an island-hopping strategy to</p>	<p>Majority of the troops died during the march and not during the journey in the boxcars.</p> <p>The fate of the American soldiers of USAFFE must be included in this curriculum.</p> <p>Thousands of Filipino guerrillas laid the groundwork for the</p>	<p>Filipino and 12,000 American troops. They were forced to march some 60 miles to their prison camp at Camp O'Donnell with no provisions for food, water or shelter. Those who could no longer go on were beaten, bayoneted, shot and in some cases even beheaded by their Japanese captors. Approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Once inside Camp O'Donnell, approximately 20,000 Filipinos and 1600 Americans died. A majority of the American prisoners were later transported under dismal conditions in the hulls of unmarked vessels termed as "Hell Ships" to Japan, China, Formosa and Korea where they worked as slave laborers. Thousands died en route by friendly fire. Many more died while serving as slave laborers.</p> <p>During the next 3 years, the Filipinos and Americans formed guerrilla</p>

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<p>push back the Japanese advance. In February 1945 American and Filipino forces finally recaptured the Bataan Peninsula; Manila was liberated the next month. By the end of the war, approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died and Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw.</p>	<p>eventual liberation of the Philippines during the 3 years prior to the liberation.</p> <p>The Capture of Bataan Peninsula is no longer significant at this point. The Battle of Leyte Gulf is the seminal event that destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy leading to the defeat of Japan.</p>	<p>groups which laid the groundwork for the liberation. On October 23 to 26, 1944, the Battles of Leyte Gulf destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy. Manila was liberated by March 1945 killing 100,000 civilians, approximately half by Japanese massacre and it became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw. By the end of the war approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died in the Philippines.</p>

References:

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3. Sixth Annual Report - U.S. High Commissioner of the Philippine Islands
4. The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific , Dept. of History, US Military Academy
5. Memorandum for the President, Subject: Authority of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (U.S. National Archives & Records Administration), Date September 13, 1945
6. War Plan Orange by Edward W. Miller
7. Navy Basic War Plan Rainbow #5

8. Congressional Research Service Report for Congress on US Prisoners of War and Civilian American Citizens Captured and Interned by Japan in WWII, July 2001.
9. Nimitz Graybook
10. Proceedings of the Conference WWII in the Philippines, Remembering 60 Years After, National Historical Commission of the Philippines